

Response ID ANON-WDST-K7QG-V

Submitted to Talking "Fracking": A Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas

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Community Considerations

1 What are your views on the potential social, community and health impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the potential social, community and health impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

Transition Black Isle looks forward positively to a Scotland leading the world in meeting or exceeding the Paris Agreement on limiting greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement ensures that the global climate is stabilised in the future at an appropriate level for the continued functioning of the ecosystem in a way beneficial to the human population. Signatories to the Paris Agreement are requested to reduce their CO2 emissions rapidly. It seems that governments must lead through regulatory frameworks however unpopular that may be. A war on energy profligacy, a restriction on the burning of oil/gas/coal, and a change of lifestyle is needed to create a sustainable future into the centuries ahead. In this light any extension to mining of fossil fuels rather than expanding the use of renewable energy is totally counterproductive. The more fossil fuels are burned, the higher will be the costs to remove greenhouse gases from the air, and the measures to meet carbon targets become more serious.

The main longterm hazard from UOG exploitation is the legacy to groundwater and other contamination. Environmental evidence for these effects is lacking as UOG is a recent method for providing energy and the "age" of groundwater is long. There is no doubt that the extraction of UOG requires the use and release of noxious chemical compounds and materials below ground.

2 What are your views on the community benefit schemes that could apply, were an unconventional oil and gas industry to be developed in Scotland?

What are your views on the community benefit schemes that could apply, were an unconventional oil and gas industry to be developed in Scotland?:

A community benefit scheme is a local bribe to ensure those adversely affected by UOG exploration and exploitation are compensated. Better by far to redirect the expected immediate expenditure costs of UOG exploitation to rafts of schemes that could be implemented to save the equivalent amount of energy through efficiency savings throughout the population.

Economic Considerations

3 What are your views on the potential impact of unconventional oil and gas industry on Scotland's economy and manufacturing sector?

What are your views on the potential impact of unconventional oil and gas industry on Scotland's economy and manufacturing sector?:

The economy and outlook of the Scottish people and Scotland would be enhanced if each family had less to pay for its energy supplies with more being available for "desirable goals". By insulating homes, providing only "green" cars for the domestic market, changing attitudes to travel, both daily, business and recreational, and creating more vibrant local communities, energy use costs would fall at the family level.

For industry and business the key consideration is the cost per kWh of the energy they need. As renewable energy prices are falling, it would seem sensible to focus there rather than in an un-costed and complicated new technology that would lead to environmental degradation and greater difficulty in meeting the requirements of the Climate Change Act.

4 What are your views on the potential role of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland's energy mix?

What are your views on the potential role of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland's energy mix?:

Scotland in common with other nations has higher proven reserves of fossil fuels that could be legally burned if climate change is to be restricted to an acceptable level. To add to this inventory a contribution from UOG would compound the problem. Scotland cannot be committed to the Paris Accord and to a reduction in its carbon emissions if it seeks to exploit its total reserves of fossil fuels.

Environmental Considerations

5 What are your views on the potential environmental impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the potential environmental impacts of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

The impacts will be visual, and a degradation of the local ecology in the short term, and groundwater in the long term. By comparison, renewable alternatives suffer only visual impacts.

6 What are your views on the potential climate change impacts of unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the potential climate change impacts of unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

Our views are wholly in line with the Meteorological Office and the UK Research Councils, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It is not possible to constrain global temperatures to a future sustainable level without leaving a high proportion of all oil and gas (conventional or unconventional) in the ground. It does not make sense to add a UK/Scottish contribution to greenhouse gases (which will then have to be very expensively removed from the air) when a renewable energy solution will be sustainable and add negligible greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

7 What are your views on the regulatory framework that would apply to an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

What are your views on the regulatory framework that would apply to an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

A very simple framework. Just outlaw unconventional oil and gas.

Concluding Remarks

8 Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main benefits, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main benefits, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

We see no benefits. We see only a polluted environment and Scotland failing to meet its carbon targets. We cannot conceive that with clean-up costs the industry could be cost effective compared with other forms of energy production.

9 Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main risks or challenges, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?

Overall, and in light of the available evidence, what do you think would be the main risks or challenges, if any, of an unconventional oil and gas industry in Scotland?:

Failure to meet carbon targets.

Failure to maintain a clean environment with uncontaminated soils and water. We only see exceptional added costs to return the environment to its current status.

10 If you have any other comments on the issues discussed in this consultation, please provide them here.

If you have any other comments on the issues discussed in this consultation, please provide them here.:

It is good to consult the public. However hard decisions have to be made to protect the environment. They are hard decisions because the required actions to meet carbon targets must involve everyone. So far the public have been kept in the quiet about the demands that will be made of them. To add unconventional oil and gas to the mix just makes meeting targets more difficult and the public will have to change behaviour earlier. Please accept that the basic physics of greenhouse gases is indisputable and the increasing CO2 and Methane concentrations in the atmosphere which are rising year-on-year is a real fact. Only fake facts will justify that you can have both unconventional oil and gas and a stable climate.

Scientists should be trusted when they present the case for lower carbon emissions and reduced CO2 loading of the atmosphere. Politicians should act in the interest of humanity and forgo financial gain from short-sighted fracking and invest in the renewable sources that have a proven track record and will not lead to increased costs to mitigate the impact of climate change.

About You

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

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If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please select a type/sector that best describes your organisation:

Community group

If other, please specify::

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference (we will not publish your email or address details):

Publish response only (without name)

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes